THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Textiles by US

2165. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has taken up with United States of America, their restricting import policies on textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of U.S. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE); (a) No unilateral restrictions have been imposed by United States of America on the import of Indian textiles other than the quantitative restrictions as were mutually agreed upon during the bilateral agreement under the Multi Fibre Arrangements (MFA) which have been continued under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) under the World Trade Organisation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Granite

2166. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the granite industry has sought some incentives to bolster granite exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government to the granite industry's demand; and

(d) the export of granite during the last two years and the target for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE); (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Incetives sought by the Industry to bolster granite exports are listed below:—

(i) Uniform national policy in regard to grant of leases on long-term basis.

(ii) Standardisation of royalty rates and dead rents at par with other industrial minerals.

(iii) Granite mining to be declared as industry.

(iv) Permission to import granite quarrying equipment under Duty Exemption Scheme for Export Oriented Units (EOUs).

(v) Benefit under 80 HHC for granite supplies made to EOUs.

(vi) Reducing limit of Rs. 20 crores for duty-free imports of capital goods under EPCG Scheme.

(c) The demands of the industry have been discussed in a series of inter-ministerial meetings including the State Mines Ministers' Conference organised by the Ministry of Commerce on 13th November, 1997. The meeting of the Granite Development Council was held on 30th June, 1998 for follow-up action on the Resolutions passed during the Conference of 13.11.97.

(d) The export of granite during the last two years and the target for the current year are as follows:—

(Value in Rs. Million)

Year	Value
1996-97	14250.0
1997-98	13000.0
Target 1998-99	16000.0